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INTERIOR DAILY COMMUNICATIONS REPORT

TV Coverage - Louisiana:

WBRZ (ABC) Baton Rouge - Secretary Zinke meets with Local Officials about Coastal Restoration

KSLA (CBS) Shreveport - Secretary Zinke addresses Coastal Restoration

NEWS TO SHARE:

The Advocate (Baton Rouge, LA) - Interior secretary vows to slash red tape for coastal restoration projects in Louisiana

"Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke vowed to use his clout to fast-track coastal restoration projects during a Saturday visit to Louisiana. "Louisiana and the coastline are important, and we're losing too much of it. ... There's a lot of things that Interior can do," the secretary told reporters at the Water Institute of the Gulf where he began the day. The U.S. Department of the Interior oversees the nation's natural resources. Members of the Louisiana congressional delegation invited Zinke to the Pelican State to demonstrate current restoration efforts and ask for federal assistance. Zinke said he's in a position to work with other federal agencies like the Army Corps of Engineers to "get the bureaucracy out of the way." He turned to Congressman Garret Graves, a Baton Rouge Republican, for an example of how bureaucratic red tape poses problems."

Daily Caller: Trump's Interior Raised \$1 Billion More Revenue Leasing Fed Lands For Energy Development

"Revenue generated from energy and mineral leases has increased by nearly \$1 billion over 2016 levels, according to a Thursday Department of the Interior press release. "Under President Trump's American Energy Dominance agenda, we've increased energy funds by a billion dollars in our first year alone," Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke said. "That money goes right back to communities for things like public works projects, educational improvements, conservation and parks, and infrastructure upgrades." The Office of Natural Resource's Revenue (ONRR) total disbursements for 2017 came to \$7.11 billion, according to the DOI. Roughly \$1.44 billion went to states, \$676 million went to private mineral rights owners and tribal governments, and \$950 million went to the Land and Water Conservation Fund that uses offshore oil and gas leasing revenues to support state and local parks and conservation through grants. The Trump administration has focused on opening more federal and offshore area to development as a part of its plan for "energy dominance."

Washington Post: Effort to fix aging Arlington Memorial Bridge receives a \$227 million boost

"In a rare bit of good news for the Washington region's aging transportation infrastructure, the National Park Service announced Friday that it had approved a \$227 million project to repair and rehabilitate Arlington Memorial Bridge, a major commuter artery traveled by 68,000 vehicles a day. Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke and members of the District and Virginia congressional delegation said in a news release that the contract caps a years-long fight to secure funding to repair the aging bridge, which was determined to be so "structurally deficient" that in 2015 officials barred large vehicles, trucks and buses from using it. "This is a huge win for Northern Virginia commuters, as well as visitors to the nation's capital," Sen. Tim

Kaine (D-Va.) said. "As we celebrate this good news, we should also redouble our efforts to pass a major infrastructure bill so other aging bridges don't degrade to such a terrible condition in the first place."

Houma Today (LA): Federal officials discuss coast, energy in Thibodaux

"The relationship between coastal restoration and U.S. energy dominance was the focal point of federal officials' tour of Louisiana today. U.S. Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke joined U.S. Sen. Bill Cassidy, R-La., and U.S. Rep. Garret Graves, R-La., at the Wetlands Acadian Cultural Center in the Jean Lafitte National Historical Park and Preserve in Thibodaux. They met with representatives from organizations such as the Louisiana Coastal Protection and Restoration Authority, Greater Lafourche Port Commission and Water Institute of the Gulf. Saturday's tour of the state also included Baton Rouge and Ama. Cassidy invited Zinke to Louisiana amid a three-year oil bust that has cost Houma-Thibodaux an estimated 16,000 jobs. Zinke noted the national importance of oil and gas production but said he wants to make sure it's done correctly."

CORRECTING THE RECORD:

U.S. News and World Report: Trump to Scale Back 2 National Monuments in Trip to Utah

"President Donald Trump is announcing plans to scale back two sprawling national monuments in Utah, responding to what he has condemned as a "massive federal land grab" by the government. Trump is traveling to Salt Lake City on Monday to outline his intention to shrink the Bears Ears and the Grand-Staircase Escalante national monuments spanning millions of acres in Utah. The two national monuments were among 27 that Trump ordered Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke to review earlier this year. Utah's Republican leaders, including Sen. Orrin Hatch, pressed Trump to launch the review, saying the monuments declared by Presidents Barack Obama and Bill Clinton locked up too much federal land."

• ****White House Talking Points will be made available this afternoon****

OTHER TOP STORIES:

Washington Post: Rising seas may eventually submerge some important U.S. historical landmarks

"Sea-level rise this century may threaten Jamestown in Virginia, the first permanent English settlement in the Americas; the Kennedy Space Center in Florida, which launches all of NASA's human spaceflight missions; and the Cape Hatteras Lighthouse in North Carolina, the tallest brick lighthouse in the United States, a new study finds. These iconic locales are some of the more than 13,000 archaeological and historical sites on the Atlantic and Gulf coasts that rising sea levels will endanger this century, researchers in the new study said. Global warming may lead sea levels to rise by about 3.3 feet in the next century and by 16.4 feet or more in the centuries afterward, according to research from the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change and others. These rising sea levels could have severe effects, as more than 40 percent of all people worldwide live within 60 miles of the coast, many in low-lying areas, according to reports from the United Nations and others."

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Alex Hinson

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